

BLUE RIVER OKLAHOMA

Project Name: Blue River Landscape

Project Type:

- Acquisition/Easement/Protection
- Recreation
- Education

Project Description: The Blue River in southern Oklahoma is one of few free-flowing rivers in the state and a destination for recreational anglers, kayakers, canoeists, and rafters. Efforts will include development of a Land Management Demonstration Area on the Nature Conservancy's newly purchased Blue River Preserve. This area, when restored, will provide an educational "how to" resource for private landowners on riparian habitat protection and restoration.

Opportunities for fishing, kayaking, canoeing, bird watching, and educational activities will be enhanced and promoted by improving facilities at the Blue River Wildlife Management Area and designating portions of the River as a National Water Trail. Conservation of the Blue River and its corridor of riparian habitat will be promoted by the establishment of in-stream flow levels and water quality monitoring. Educational efforts focusing on protecting the "sole source" Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer will include yearly field trips to the area, as part of the Arbuckle Simpson Nature Festival.

Lead Federal Agencies:

- National Park Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Non-Federal Partners:

- Chickasaw Nation
- Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Other academic and non-profit partners

Outcomes for 2012:

- Acquire a 500-acre parcel for land management demonstration project
- Dedicate the Blue River Preserve
- Host several public educational and recreational events